

The 920th Rescue Wing



Mission

Commanded by Colonel Timothy E. Tarchick, the 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. is an Air Force Reserve Command combat search and rescue unit. It trains and equips about 1200 personnel to search for, locate and recover U.S. Armed Forces personnel during military operations. **The 920th also has secondary missions that include:** Providing rescue support for astronauts on NASA space shuttle missions as part of the Department of Defense Manned Spaceflight Team, providing safety and security surveillance of the Eastern Range during all launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Kennedy Space Center, providing search and rescue support for civilians who are lost or in distress, and providing humanitarian and disaster relief operations.

Organization and Contributions

The 920th Rescue Wing expanded from a group to a wing in April 2003. Upon mobilization for active duty, the 920th Rescue Wing is assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command. The wing consists of headquarters staff agencies such as Public Affairs, Staff Judge Advocate and Safety Offices and 9 subordinate groups and squadrons, including two geographically separated units at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Portland, Oregon.

After the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, approximately 400 of the group's airmen were activated and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. During their tenure in Iraq, crews from the 920th were credited with recovering 26 servicemembers, more than any other rescue unit in the Air Force.

Some of their more daring missions included recovering a stranded A-10 pilot who ejected from his airplane after it was hit during a mission over Baghdad, and flying behind enemy lines to recover a Marine special forces team who had been pinned down north of Nasiria. The wing continues to support the ongoing efforts of Operation Iraqi Freedom, in addition to homeland humanitarian operations.



Quick Facts

Mission: Combat Search and Rescue

1200 servicemembers assigned

Operates a fleet of HC-130 "Hercules" aircraft and HH-60G "Pave Hawk" helicopters

Credited with 26 recoveries during Operation Iraqi Freedom

During its 48-year history, the wing has been credited with saving more than 700 lives

Assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command when activated



"That other's may live"